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# TALON

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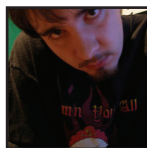
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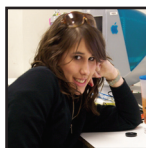
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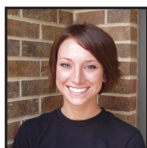
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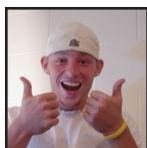
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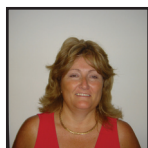
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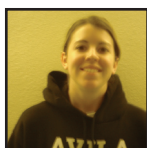
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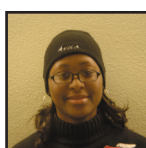
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## At Issue

Who really "gets it?" This was the pseudo-theme of the Student Leadership Recognition Ceremony. It couldn't have been more appropriate for Avila. And it couldn't be less surprising that was the theme, particularly in a year of extreme dissonance from the student body, citywide news coverage, and this newspaper. These are the students that "get it." What is "it?" These are the students that don't challenge our ideas, but rather exemplify what we want in a submissive student. Join the student organizations, not because they are fun, but because it will win you achievement awards later. Smile and pose for publicity pictures, and be an ambassador for a school that's more interested in getting you enrolled than developing your mind and broadening your view once you are in. After a reprimand from school officials earlier in the year, the meeting closed with the statement "I think you get it." That statement was true if by "it" they meant that I was supposed to act as if I felt nothing was wrong with Avila. I got it. It didn't change my outlook, though. I'm not saying that the school doesn't do great things. I'm not saying I don't appreciate what they've done for me, or the opportunity they give many students. That doesn't give them a free pass on criticism, though. I love my friends, but I criticize them when they do something stupid. We can't grow as people, or as a university if we can't talk openly about what's wrong with the school, and how it could be better. Parking lots and new dorms don't fix the spiritual and social dilemmas of a university.

Another year goes by, and another class graduates. Did they get "it?" I didn't. At least I don't think I did, not in the way the school officials want me to. I didn't keep my mouth shut. I questioned the school's values. I wanted to talk about risqué issues in our society. A school official told me the issues I wanted to bring up would upset the nuns and make them cry. As a lifelong Catholic, I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Catholics may hold on to tradition, but it doesn't define us. Would any of the nuns promote some of the issues brought up by The Talon? Of course not, but I do believe they would be willing to discuss the issues. They are here to help students, not appear aloof and disconnected from society as the school official suggested with his statement. If the officials of the school get "it," they certainly don't get out. As in to other universities, or into society, apparently. I understand it's a Catholic university with

a mission statement and values structured to reflect that identity. But Catholics aren't closeted, they come in all shapes, sizes, ethnic, financial, and social backgrounds. They're also willing to confront social issues that may be uncomfortable for them, just like anyone should be willing to do.

All I can think of as I leave school is how can one expand their mind without opening it to new ideas and issues? Many professors here have challenged me to look beyond what is laid out in front of me. Professors by the name of Snorgrass, Riley, Meade, Caliendo, Strelluf, Cervetti, Banks, Zaidi, and Coots. The smallest impact can have a lasting effect. Thank you to

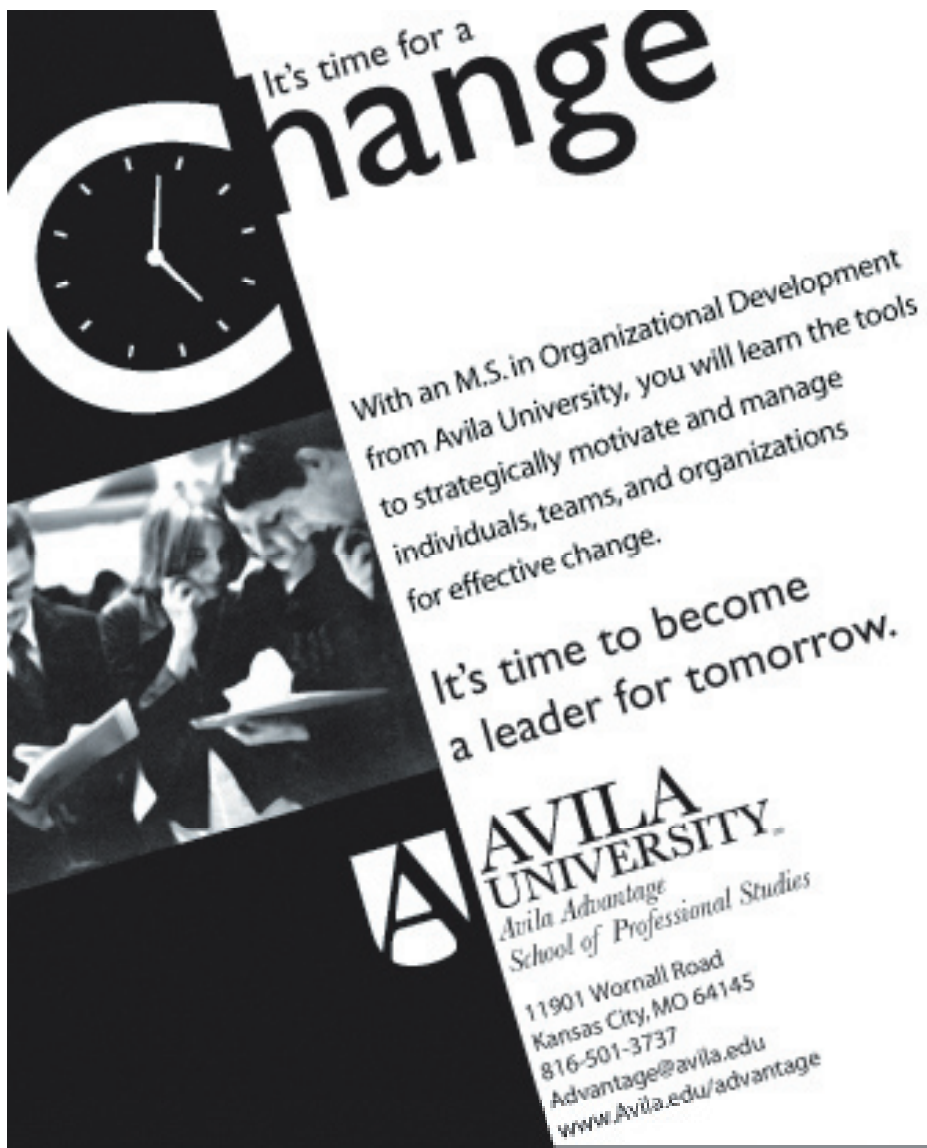


the many professors that challenge us to do more than complete assignments and follow all the rules. Those are the people that get "it."

This is more of a 'MaxRant' than an 'In This Issue.' Oh well. It'll be the last thing I write for the paper, though, so everyone can relax again. Try to go easy on next year's staff, I'm sure they won't be as irritating as me. Thanks to everyone who helped with the paper, and to the administration, for

*Go to [thetalon-online.com](http://thetalon-online.com) to comment on this column.*





## A Look into Avila Ambassadors

by Monique Bryson

When a potential Avila student graduates from high school, he or she may be unsure of his or her future. Many students want to attend college but find it hard to pick the right college, one that is not only affordable, but also has the right atmosphere. This is where Avila Ambassadors get involved to help.

Laura Barr, Avila Ambassador Advisor, was a member for four years while attending school. It was only natural that she take over the program when she started working for the school.

Avila Ambassadors are tour guides that show prospective students the different departments, dorms and facilities that compose Avila. They're required to give two tours a week. Members meet monthly as well as plan several types of activities for students such as All About Avila Day, Spring Fling, or Intramurals.

First-year student Brian Berger joined because he wanted to show others what life would be like if they chose Avila. He also said the school has a small population and every student counts. Berger is also

involved in the Student Diary located on the Avila website. The Student Diary includes six members selected through an interview process. They write about student life at Avila and post pictures on the site.

Junior Gayan Peart became a member because she loves Avila, and it allowed her to meet incoming students. She also wanted to have an impact on prospective students' decisions by showing them the campus before they visit elsewhere. It's also a way for her to help first-year students that feel intimidated.

Sophomore Rachel Williams was just a work study student when she was approached and asked to be an Avila Ambassador. She was excited to be a part of the program to encourage other students and provide them with information about the school.

The application period has ended for the semester, but students are encouraged to inquire about the program when they return in the fall.

## "Black Out or Shut Out?"

by Dani Asher

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black-Out Party was held in Whitfield Center on March 24. This party was put on by the leaders of the Black Student Union. Overall, it was considered a success by President Johnny Turnage. And while the party proved to be the largest fundraiser to date for BSU, there were still very few students in attendance.

The idea for the Black-Out Party was created last year. The BSU wanted to host a positive event to end the year, and the initial concept was for a step-show. The step-show required more planning time than the organization felt they were able to give. BSU eventually came up with the concept of a theme dance. This theme dance also includes refreshments catered through the school. "For a touch of class, we added chocolate covered strawberries this year," Turnage said.

D.J. Ak was again the emcee, and he has proven to be a popular choice. Jill Shadden said, "It was fun but they didn't publicize enough for it. The D.J. was good." Leon

Washington also attended the event, and added, "The music was excellent, but it could have been held some place else."

Turnage agrees that to make the party an even greater success in the future, there should be more publicity. He also believes that planning farther in advance for the event would make it a bigger hit among Avila students.

When the President of BSU was asked why there was a lack of attendance among Avila Students, he jokingly replied that it might be due to a lack of alcohol. Katie Villa might argue that it was the location of the party; "I went home instead."

Turnage responded to doubters, "It's only as fun as you make it. You have to learn how to create your own fun." We will have to wait until next spring for another Black-Out party, but everyone involved is hoping there will be a greater turnout of AU students.



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# Greek Life Disappears

by Amy Schwartz

In 1994, Jason Coots was a sophomore. He felt there was nothing to do around campus besides go to class. There were no social events on campus. A sophomore at the time, he and three other friends decided to start a fraternity.

Jason was a baseball player, but baseball players were not the only participants in the fraternity. The fraternity had between twenty-five and thirty members. The members were a diverse group consisting of soccer players, baseball players, theater majors, and others. It began not being sponsored nationally. They named the fraternity Alpha Xai for Avila College (which it was back in 1994). They thought the Greek letter for "C" was Xai, but they ended up keeping it. A sorority was also formed, Alpha Phi. It had between twenty and twenty-five girls.

The fraternity was open to anyone who wanted to join. It was conducted like any other fraternity at other university. Members were very involved; they had dues, and threw functions for all Avila students. They also had combined parties with other fraternities.

The fraternity and sorority did not have their own houses, so they had their meetings in the basement of the Marian Center.

The fraternity and sorority received little support from the faculty and staff of the university. They did not look at it as a positive force. It would be a group that hurt the administration and progress of the school.

The fraternity was not negative, according to Coots. They had study groups and many social events that let students be involved with other students on campus.

One of the goals of the fraternity was to become sponsored nationally. This was not an easy process. It took a lot of time

and a lot of research. By their second year in existence, they met the requirements. They had 2-3 bids from national fraternities. They ended up choosing Alpha Kappa Lambda. There was a strong chapter in Lawrence at Kansas University, so they were locally supported.

Coot's senior year, he and his fellow fraternity brothers were initiated at Kansas.

Coots felt at the time, and still feels that Avila deserves a Greek system. Jason Coots and the others involved wanted to model Avila's Greek life after Rockhurst's.

"We tried to simulate what Rockhurst has - a strong system based on integrity, morality, ethics, and doing the right thing. Greek is not bad, it can be a positive image and force on campus," says Coots.

Rockhurst is a Jesuit University with many of the same values as Avila. They have a strong Greek system consisting of four fraternities and two sororities. Greek life at Rockhurst is not looked at as negative. The average Greek GPA is 3.28. Greek members have participated in more than 2,500 service hours. On the Rockhurst University website you can find out much more information about their Greek life: <http://www.rockhurst.edu/studentlife/greeklife/stats.asp>.

The fraternity and sorority ended a few years after Jason and the fellow founders graduated. There is not much said about why the Greek life ended. There is rumor that the Greek life gave a bad name to the university and it was quietly brushed aside. There's no proof that this was the case.

Avila is no longer Avila College it is Avila University. Since the school is trying to become a bigger force and market itself more as a university, maybe it is time to try Greek life again.



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## Psi Chi/ Psychology Club Inducts New Officers

by Eudora Savage

The Psychology club promotes educational and social opportunities for students interested in Psychology. Psi Chi Honor Society is the honor society for Psychology majors who are in the top one-third of their class, affiliated with the Psychology Club.

Psi Chi/Psychology Club is busiest this time of year, Michele Buchan, the President of the Psi Chi Psychology Club, said. The Club is preparing for presentation of their research at the National Psychology Convention in Chicago from May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 6<sup>th</sup>.

To raise funds for the Chicago Convention, the Club had a Valentine's Day Raffle, the Boo Bags, T-shirts sales and the sexiest Legs Contest won by Don Hillard, the Kitchen Manager at the Marian Centre.

There was a booth at the Spring Fling on April 6<sup>th</sup>, where the club was giving away mood rings and teaching breathing techniques that help students change their moods.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Psi Chi hosted an annual induction ceremony at RC's Family Dining in Martin City in which the club celebrated the achievements of new students being inducted into the Psi Chi Honor Society,

and the election of new officers for the 2006-2007 school year.

Two students, Lauren Brown and Louis Alvarado, the past Treasurer of the Psychology Club, were given the Outstanding Student Psychology Award.

At the Student Scholar Day held at the Whitfield Conference Center on April 10, 2006, students received recognition for their scholarly achievement during their time at Avila University. Among those students honored were Michele Buchan, the outgoing president, and Lindsey Carroll in the Psychology major department. They lectured on "The Relationship Between UV Exposure and Social Comparison." They based their presentation on the definition of social comparison from Patrick, Neighbors, and Knee (2004) as the tendency for people to use others as a source of self-evaluation.

As past president of the Psychology Club, Michele Buchan states that she handed down the energy and excitement to the next president to follow in the past officers' footsteps, and to also continue to bring in new students into the Club and new seminars to increase awareness to the Avila Community. Buchan also states that all students are welcome to join the Psychology Club.



Avila Students re-enact the "War On The Quad" that occurred in the late 1500's. Estimated casualties, 10. If YOU have any questions, clues, testimonials or concerns about this event in Avila's history, contact Ben Digman. He awaits your response.



# "History Defines 'Steer' Dinner"

by Dani Asher

Did you ever stop to think why Avila's largest fundraiser is called the 'Steer' Dinner? Steer Dinner was actually named after a steer called Jimmie C (or Jimmie Carter). The year was 1976, and Jimmie C. was the Grand Champion Steer of the American Royal Show. Six prominent syndicates from the Kansas City area pooled their money and donated Jimmie C. to raise money for the construction of a campus library. The first fundraiser was held on January 30, 1977 and there were 100 or so guests. After dinner prepared by Avila Food Service, boxes of steaks were auctioned off.

The first recipient of a fine box of steaks was Clara BelMcClary, who donated \$1000. This gesture of giving was particularly significant in that Clara was the first full-time adult student at Avila. Sr. Olive Louise Dallavis, who has attended every Steer Dinner since the original, commented, "It was a happy and very formal occasion. It set the precedent for future dinners. The guests really appreciated the students for serving them." After the first five years or so, Avila expanded the dinner to auction off other items as well.

In the early years of the Dinner, the American Royal Champion Lamb was also donated to raise funds for the Avila community. The 1979-1983 dinners were once again made possible due to the donation of the American Royal Steers.

These four years were vital in raising money for the construction of the Mabee Fieldhouse. Since 1984, the Steer Dinner has been fundamental in incurring funds for Student Aid and scholarships. An average of \$250,000 is raised annually, totaling well over 4 million.

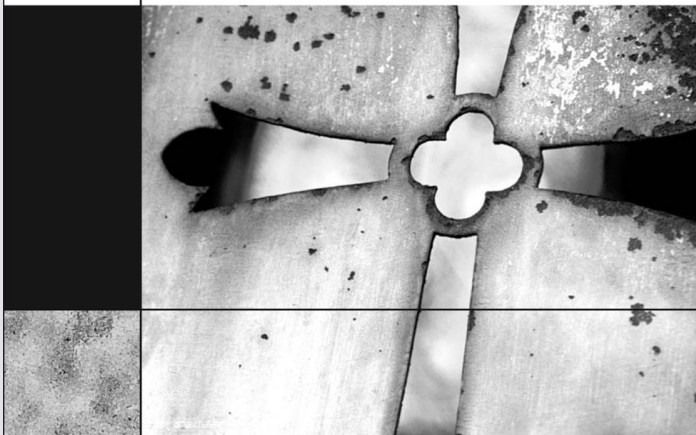
In Steer history, there have been many notable honorary chairs. One such person is Dorothy Whitfield, whose name was given to the reception area and art gallery. In 1997, Sister Olive Louise Dallavis was the honorary chair. Two years later, Carolyn Berbiglia of Berbiglia Wines and Spirits was chairperson.

On a more famous note, Will and Senia Shields were the honorable chairs in 2005. Senia was an Avila graduate in 2001. The former Chiefs player and Avila alum were named the 2005 Philanthropists of the Year by the Kansas City Council of Philanthropy. This couple also started the 'Will to Succeed Foundation' which improves the lives of abused, battered, and neglected women and children.

This past year, Richard and Shirli Goppert were the honorary chairs. Who would have known that just like the rich history of Avila University, Steer Dinner has an interesting past as well? The Steer Dinner began in 1977 and is still going strong. Avila's longest running fundraiser will continue to be important to this collegiate community for many years to come.

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# Joe Deighton leaving for Spring Hill

by John De Roo

Joe Deighton, Avila's Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs has recently decided to leave to accept the position of Vice President of Student Affairs/Dean of Students at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. Mr. Deighton says it was "a gut feeling to try something new" and that it was a "great opportunity at a great institution." He also says that it is better for his family to move now as it will be easier on his two young children.

Joe also says that his new job will be "more resident and student life oriented" as well as give him "more contact with more students on campus." Spring Hill has many more students living on campus than Avila does, so that will help him get to know more students. "It's an exciting

time and they have done some incredible things," he said.

Joe arrived at Avila in 1998 as associate dean. In the fall of 1999, he became interim vice-president and then named permanent vice-president in April of 2000. Many great things have happened during his tenure like the addition of the football program in the athletic department.

Joe also wanted to note that he is very appreciative of the support that the Avila community has given him in his eight years here. Joe would also like to thank "the wonderful people in Student Affairs. They have done great things in the past and will continue to do great things." Joe says his last day in the office will most likely be May 26th.

# Athlete Forum Clarifies

by Dani Asher

"From Superstar to Regular Joe"

On Tuesday, April 18th, an educational forum took place in Whitfield Center entitled "Transitioning Out of Elite Sports." Basically, this forum discussed the psychological effects of transitioning out of elite sports.

"It was interesting because you never really think about how pro athletes adjust after their careers are over," says Sport Science Major Uche Ukeagwe.

One might say that this Avila event put on by Carrie Quinn and the Sports Science Department was actually interesting, (especially for those interested in sports). Carrie was the emcee for the event and Kimble Anders, Mary Phyl Dwight, and Blair Quinn were the honored guest speakers.

Each of the speakers shared their sports tales, as well as why their careers ended. Kimble was a successful running back for the Kansas City Chiefs but his career ultimately ended after an Achilles injury. Kimble believed he was healthy and strong, but apparently the Chiefs thought he was too old to fully recover. In the NFL, Kimble realized "football is a business." He could no longer be that kid who played football just because he loved it. Kimble said he missed the 'family' relationships he had with being on a team the most out of everything. "After the NFL, you lose your identity," said the three-time Pro-Bowler.

Mary Phyl Dwight's story is a little different than that of Kimble's. She was a multi-sport athlete for SMS (now MSU) and was a member of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Handball Team. The funny part about Mary's tale is that she had never even played handball until after she left graduate school. Mary learned how to play handball from watching a videotape, but later realized it combined all the skills she had acquired from playing many sports her entire life. Mary lived in Olympic training centers for many years and developed close relationships that she cherished. After she

retired from the sport, she too felt out of place. At this point, Mary kept trying to fulfill the void, but eventually realized she would just have to move on with her life.



Blair Quinn was a soccer All American at Rockhurst College, and played professional indoor soccer for five years after that. He bounced around from city to city, living the ultimate young man's dream. He was playing the sport he loved, with housing and transportation provided. Blair lived in the moment and enjoyed every second of it. Blair suffered from two injuries in his career, and after trying to come back twice, decided it was time to retire.

All three athletes went through the grieving process, trying to accept the fact that they were no longer playing the sport they loved. No matter how they transitioned out of their particular sport, the end result was the same. Each of the three missed the relationships, and were not sure how to lead regular lives.

"I learned that it's not just about the sport but you have to think about your future. You cannot be an athlete forever, even an elite athlete," said Jenna Clifford.

This was certainly a key message throughout the evening; prepare for the future, and obtain a degree.

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## Ariston Award

by Eric Reeves

"I wanted to throw in the towel," said senior Deonna Bouye. This normally wouldn't be something you'd expect to hear from someone that just won the Ariston Award on April 29th, but she admits there were rough times in the last three and half years that have tested her. So she admits that she is just like anyone else and wanted to take the easy way out, but she didn't so that's what makes the award so much sweeter.

So one can see why she is extremely proud that all of her hard work didn't go unnoticed. Bouye said, "I'm just glad that all my hard work and perseverance wasn't all in vain."

A little background on the award; the Ariston award is given to one graduating senior every year that has exemplified leadership skills and shown academic success. The award winner receives a plaque to take home and their name is also engraved on a plaque that hangs permanently in the Marian Center.

Bouye had plenty of opportunities to show off her leadership skills as she was involved in a range of clubs on campus ranging from being the President of Avila University Theatre Company (AUTC) to being an Avila Ambassador.

Though as qualified as she seems to be she wasn't the only one in the running to receive this prestigious award. She was one of the five finalists that were interviewed by a panel of faculty and staff. So one could see why she wasn't very confident in herself. Bouye said, "I was really surprised, because I assumed someone else would win. I was just happy to be nominated."

Bouye feels that the award as a "blessing" and but she will be doubly blessed because this year she has been asked to speak at graduation this spring. This will be the first year that the Ariston award winner will have a chance to address his or her class on graduation day.

Times can be rough in college between jobs, school, athletics, etc. will only need to walk over to the Marian Center for now on and see Deonna Bouye's name on the wall and remember that she thought about giving up just like anyone else and ended up the 2005-06 Ariston award winner.

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# Profile: Greg Liebenberg

by Skylar McKeen

When looking at the Avila University baseball roster for the 2006 season, a theme in player's demographics can be seen at first glance. Next to nearly all the names sit either a KS for Kansas, MO for Missouri or CA for California. However, near the bottom of the page one player has no two letter abbreviation for his home state. Instead, his home country and province are spelled out in full lettering, making unsuspecting viewers do a quick double take. In almost perfect synchronization with the double take come the whirlwind of questions, intrigue and finally amazement. How on earth did a South African, let alone a South African baseball player, find his way to Avila University?

The story starts in the same way so many other success stories do; with goals being set, opportunities taken advantage of, and eventually, dreams coming true. As a child, Greg Liebenberg did not take the beaten path as many of his peers. Instead, he branched out from the norm and began playing a sport that was about as foreign to his culture as it is synonymous to ours. Greg began playing baseball at the age of ten and found himself in the top of his league at the age of eleven.

"Baseball is not popular at all in South Africa," explained Greg, "The main sports are rugby and soccer, but baseball is starting to gain some popularity." As high school came and went, Greg soon found himself in a position to make some life-changing decisions. The last summer before graduating secondary school, Greg participated in a two week long baseball camp in Iowa where a Junior College scout recognized his potential. After a scholarship offer, visit to the school, and discussion with his family, Greg found himself packing his bags for South Western Community College in Creston, Iowa.

"It's fairly common for South African students to study abroad once graduating from high school. Most of my friends went to college in Europe but some of them end up in Australia or Canada. The few friends that I do have who do study in the States are at school in bigger cities like New York or L.A."

But it was not long before Greg started feeling the pressures of being away from home. Soon, he began feeling the same sense of fatigue and home sickness that many college students, who attended school away from home, feel their first year away.

"There are really no huge differences between life in South Africa and life in the U.S.," Greg says, "it's little things that remind you you're not living at home anymore. I mean, no two places are exactly alike; but things like driving on the other



Photo by Jim Wagner/Courtesy Facebook

side of the road, to different food brands are all reminders that you're in a different place."

After a rocky first semester, Greg spent a much needed Christmas vacation with his family back home, and returned to Iowa to find himself in a familiar place doing a familiar thing.

"The second semester at SWCC was easier for me because baseball season had started and that left me with no time to think about how much I missed home."

After a year playing for the South Western Iowa Spartans, Greg had made his way to the top of his league in home runs, runs batted in and fielding percentage. His numbers were impressive enough to draw attention from a number of other schools, one of them being Longview Community College in Kansas City.

"I liked SWCC, but there were no four year universities that looked at players in that league and I knew if I stayed there for my sophomore season I would have a harder time finding a place to play my junior and senior years than if I transferred to a larger junior college in a different area."

So for the second time in just a year, Greg found himself packing his bags for another destination that he knew nothing of.

"The change from Iowa to Kansas City was much easier than the change from South Africa to Creston," Greg says, "I lived in Johannesburg, which is a big city, and the town that SWCC was the complete opposite of a big city. Kansas City lifestyle is a lot quicker and much more similar to life in Johannesburg. There wasn't enough to do in Iowa and that's why I think living there was more difficult than living here."

Greg took well to his new environment and baseball team, again finding himself leading the team and league in various hitting categories. It was at Longview where Greg met future Avila teammates Tyler Redding and Chad Smith. After their season at Longview came to a close, and before Greg made his trip for the summer back to Africa, the three signed letters of intent at Avila University. By committing to Avila, Greg had guaranteed himself two more years of college baseball and met his goal of playing for a four year university. When asked about the differences between the two year colleges he attended and Avila, Greg's response was immediate and optimistic.

"I also like the mix of people out here. I was the only person on my team at South Western from anywhere other than Iowa or the surrounding states, and Longview mainly had players from the Kansas City area. Avila gets people from all over the country which makes for a better blend of personalities."

While the changes have all been positive ones, some things stay the same despite

changes of scenery or school. Like all collegiate athletes, Greg is required to meet a minimum 2.0 GPA to be eligible. Unlike most collegiate athletes, should Greg fail to meet that grade point average it would be a violation of his student visa and he would be forced to return back to South Africa.

"It's not something I ever really think about. I'm a student and I should do well in school no matter what. Being sent home because I got bad grades would definitely be pretty embarrassing, but not playing baseball would be even worse."

Everyone has a story, and no two stories are the same. From Johannesburg to Kansas City, Greg's story is one full of success, challenges met and obstacles overcome. It is proof that when someone only accepts the very best out life that is usually what they get. While Greg's story may include events and places fit for a fairy tale; it's not the story or the destination that counts, but rather the person. Greg Liebenberg is a person anyone would be proud to know.

## Gentlemen-ly Debauchery

By Rob Masters

Are you tired of spending your Saturday night hopping from one lame party to another in search of a good time? Well, Avila student Pete Webber offers his own solution. Webber and his roommate hosted an event a while back that served double duty as a cast party for the theatre department's recent show, *The Grey Zone*, and as an induction opportunity and ceremony for new member into his "Gentlemen's Club."

The Gentlemen's Club was started by Webber and friends some time ago as an

excuse to bring people together and have a good time.

"It's like a fraternity but more Sinatra," said Webber of the group, which prior to the party consisted of thirteen members.

All were invited to come and while not required, dressing up was suggested. The night consisted of two improvisation competitions, which all were invited to participate in. Most importantly, the night provided an opportunity for social interaction. The climax of the night came with the induction of three new "gentlemen" as members of The Club. The newly inducted members, Eric Johansson, Andy Perkins, and Lucas Villanueva were all members of the *Grey Zone* cast.

The Gentlemen's Club plans to have a get together similar to this one every few months so unfortunately it may be some time before one is able to find themselves at an enjoyable party at which to spend their Saturday night. The key to successfully finding a good party would be to find others with qualities similar to the Gentlemen's Club party, parties which prohibit smoking indoors and are hosted by "reputable" individuals where you are likely to encounter individuals whom you feel fondly for.





# Teenager Taking Over the R&B World

*Editor's note: Information and article portions taken from MTVAsia.com.*

by Kayle Walker

A 16-year-old R&B singer is stealing Usher's spotlight and looking to dethrone the A-Town idol as "Mr. Entertainment." Chris Brown went as far as to upstage Usher at his own post-Grammy party.

Brown's Casanova status, good looks, and smooth dance moves are enough to see why he is quickly making his way to the top. Born and raised in Tappahannock, Virginia, population 2,000, the youngster grew up spending his days studying old tapes of classic artists like Sam Cooke, Teddy Pendergrass, Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder. The classic artists may have molded Brown into what he is today but he still intends to blaze his own path of glory, refusing to tread in anyone else's footsteps.

Brown signed with Jive records on Christmas Eve in 2005 and released his self-titled debut in March 2006, less than eight weeks after beginning recording.

His debut single was a track titled "Run It," an up-tempo dancing song that just happened to make Billboard's Hot 100 list. The song is about a guy checking for a girl, or a girl checking for a guy, in a party setting, asking to see if they run it. Brown explained it as "If they can be eligible to be your girlfriend, boyfriend, whatever. 'Let me see if you can run it; show me what you got.'"

Another hot track out by the crooner is "Yo." The song goes on to describe the phrase "Yo" as not just saying "what's up" but as the feeling the guy gets when he sees a beautiful girl. So beautiful she takes your breath away and all you can say is "Yo."

Brown has also dedicated a sentimental track, "Thank You" to his mother. Brown refers to his mother as simply "amazing" and is proud God blessed him with the ability to make music.

Although Brown seems to be untouchable, other up-and-coming R&B artists are producing hot tracks too. Ne-Yo, 22-year old singer, song-writer, has cracked out hit songs like "So Sick" and "Stay." The artist also wrote the lyrics to Mario's "Let Me Love you," which lead the R&B Billboards charts at # 1 for several weeks. The singer is set to release his debut album in the next few months.

Another artist to look out for is Trey Songz, a.k.a. "Prince of Virginia." The 20-year-old gained street credit by attacking the mix tape circuit. Songz has collaborated with T.I., Trick Daddy, Juvenile, Twista, and many more. He is also going to be putting tracks together with Snoop Dogg and Lil Kim. Hot tracks out from Songz right now are "I Gotta Go" and "Just Gotta Make it." His debut album "I Gotta Make It" is going to release in the next few months as well.

Tavan Sills, a junior at Avila and someone I like to consider an expert with Rap and R&B music has his favorites picked out. "Chris Brown is the best new R&B artist, but Ne-Yo comes in a close second," Sills said. "But Trey Songz also had tracks on Jim Jones' mix tapes and once you get the underground then word gets around fast. The street credit is what gets the name big."

Between the three of these young men, the R&B world has a promising future. Each artist bringing a little something different to the table is bound to keep R&B fans full of listening pleasure.

## A New Family Grows

by Brittyn Reid

Nuzzled in Appalachia and Doddridge County, West Virginia, lies a small community built on and inspired by the Gospels and Social Teaching of the Church. This is where several students spent their Spring Break this year. Dave Armstrong, the head of campus ministries sponsors the Naz Farm trip and accompanies all who want to go. This year it happened to fall over Spring Break, so it was hard to find people who didn't have prior commitments for this short notice trip. Dave managed to round up a well-dedicated bunch; Ashley Fieber, Johnny Turnage, Whitney Martinez and Bernadette Weeks.

Ashley Fieber said, "I was actually talked into going by my friend Whitney [Martinez]."

"Neither of us had anything to do, then we found out that we could be helping people," Whitney Martinez said, "I thought it would be an interesting learning experience, and a great way to bond with my friends."

When asked what their favorite part of the trip was, Whitney said, "We would come home everyday from the work site, and we would hug. I know that sounds weird, but, we would get home and they would take all my stuff for me and say, 'Welcome Home' and just give me a big, heart-felt hug." Ashley Fieber added, "The people of Naz Farm are there for each other. You become one big family, yet you are complete strangers."

Both Fieber and Martinez expressed the feeling that they now have a new little "Naz Farm Family" that they know that they can count on. They both said that it was a well worth it experience and would recommend it to everyone.

"It is a great opportunity to meet new people and do some volunteer work," Martinez said. Fieber adds, "It opens your eyes to a lot of interesting and different aspects of people. You learn to live without things and enjoy the more simple things in life."



## Local Band From Belton, Mo Brings Something New

by Rob Masters

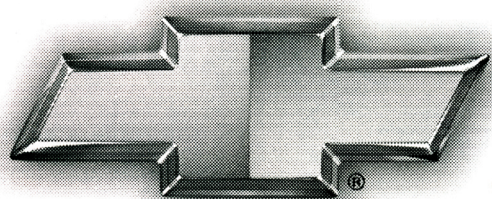
They're called Jump Rope for Heart, and they hail from Belton, Missouri. In a city where the local music scene consists of skinny kids in too-tight pants, screaming into a microphone over poorly assembled instrumental numbers, Jump Rope For Heart's dead-on lyrics and anti-rock star image is a welcomed addition.

Jump Rope For Heart is comprised of lead singer/songwriter Taylor Dunn who began Jump Rope For Heart as an acoustic solo and sometimes duo (with current guitarist Chris Turner on bass) act until the desire for a "more full" sound arose which prompted Taylor to recruit friends Josh Watson and Steven Roper to play bass and drums. An injury impaired Watson's ability to play with the band for several months and Brian Campbell was brought in as a replacement until Watson had recovered and then Campbell was given a

permanent position as the band's keyboard player.

The band has always shown exceptional skill as a live act, but truly "came together" during the summer when Jump Rope For Heart went on a two week tour of Japan, the opportunity of a life time for an unsigned Kansas City local act. Currently, Jump Rope for Heart can be seen from time to time at local venues such as the Bottleneck, the Brick, and the Jackpot Saloon.

Jump Rope For Heart has released two full-length albums as a band, both of which can be purchased at shows or at local record store, Street-Side Records in Westport. For more information on the Jump Rope for Heart, visit [myspace.com/jumpropeforheart](http://myspace.com/jumpropeforheart), and the band's website, [www.jumpropeforheartmusic.com](http://www.jumpropeforheartmusic.com).



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# Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Childhood Television

by Reginald King

Childhood brings back so many memories but nothing brings back more memories than cartoons that came on Saturday morning. My favorite one of all was the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. My older cousin and I were faithful supporters of the gang of four. Everyone in my world was a fan of the turtles. In the early nineties allegiance to the turtles was a must.

The turtles had a huge impact on my childhood. During this time I collected all of their actions figures which totals up to about \$300 dollars. I still have them in my mother's basement. I also wore their clothing, which consisted of many t-shirts and underwear. They even had a profound affect on the food I ate; I remember when Burger King was promoting one of their movies I begged my mother to take me there just so I could have one of their toys. I had three or four birthday parties with the theme of the Ninja Turtles. Everyone knew that they were my favorite superheroes so most of the presents I received consisted of turtles. Yes, it was safe to say that I was a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle fanatic. The Ninja Turtles were everywhere during the early nineties. They enjoyed block

buster success during this time with three movies in theatres. The first Ninja Turtle film was the first movie that I remember seeing in a theatre. The theatre was packed full of kids and parents.

They also had a major impact on the way I played as a child. During this time I wasn't into team sports. I was too busy trying to teach myself karate so I could fight like the turtles because I mother wouldn't sign me up for lessons. I would imagine that I was Raphael, who was my favorite turtle, and I was on their side fighting the bad guys. This helped my imagination when I was younger because if I could pretend that I had a relationship with five feet tall talking and walking Ninja Turtles, I could imagine anything.

During this time in my life I also played with other of action figures. I had the usual Batman and Superman toys but they had no comparison to the Ninja Turtle action figures. I loved the Turtles so much that I would use the Batman and Superman toys as the criminals for the Ninja Turtles to fight against.

I can say that the Ninja Turtles have had a greater impact on my life than any other



fictional character. I learned from them at a young age that no matter how bad things are, good will always over come evil. These are lessons that I can use in life as well, teaching me that if I am doing something wrong at the time, sooner or later it will catch up with me, and if there is anything I want in life I will have to give it everything I have. I also learned that nothing that can be replaced by hard work, they always had commercials telling young kids to do well in school.

Learning these lessons at such a young age had a very positive impact on the person that I have become. Parents can

always teach their children something but when someone or something you respect is telling you the same things day after day it makes following those guidelines so much easier because it seems like it is the cool thing to do. Every kid should have a positive role model because they can use it as an example to lead their own lives. Now on television it is hard for some kids to find something positive to identify with because it is filled with so much negativity. Even sports cannot always be viewed by young children without parents telling them what is acceptable and what is not because of the way professional athletes conduct themselves sometimes.

I am thankful for the things I have learned from the Turtles and I would advise other children to have childhood heroes. It is one of those things that all children should experience because nothing helps a child use his imagination like the Turtles. I can honestly say that the gang of four formed the mold for the person I have become.

CONGRATS TO  
AVILA GRADUATES!

## Cartoon Identity

by Emilee Eveler

"Scooby Scooby Doo, where are you? We got some work to do now..." This is a melody that many of the generation X remembers from their childhood. When I was a little girl, my eyes would light up whenever Scooby came on, all attention devoted to the TV and that day's episode. What kind of mysterious adventure would the gang get into this time? I would always wonder.

The cartoon show was about four teenage kids, Fred, Velma, Daphne, Shaggy and a goofy Great Dane named Scooby Doo, who was the main character.

how I would beg my mom to wake me up from a nap just a little bit earlier so that I could watch it. Strangely, as I look back twenty years later, this particular television cartoon has influenced some of my interests, curiosities, social skills, morals and even humor throughout my life. I can still relate to each character's individual personality. Their traits and relationships are what mostly contributed to the cartoon's popularity and is what gave it a special magnetism, especially Scooby.

Although the characters were very different in personality, their outfits stayed

for the ghostly culprits and was suspected of being a secret romantic to Daphne. Their private relationship seemed to always be in the back of my mind, which added even more to my curiosity of the show. I admired Fred for his leadership abilities and felt like I could be brave like he was in difficult or scary situations. There were two girl characters on Scooby Doo that were very different from one another.

Velma was sort of the geeky-smart type who aspired to know many different languages as well as the being the best detective in the gang. The suspense would always build when she would lose her glasses. I felt like I was intelligent like Velma but I thought she was kind of dorky. I thought Daphne, who had the persona of a valley girl, was definitely prettier than Velma and I admired her for that. She liked to shop, was always tossing around her red hair and was actually pretty good at deciphering the clues, although she seemed to always fall into trouble with the bad guys. Even though these two girls were almost complete opposites, they were good friends and worked together.

Shaggy was the most cowardly, and the goofiest character in the group who slightly resembled a hippie, especially since he had the munchies all the time mainly for "Scooby snacks." He was also the funniest of the four human members. I knew that I could be just as goofy as he was at times. Watching Shaggy getting chased around by ghosts and hiding from them was pretty amusing.

Last but not least there is the infamous Scooby Doo who seemed to hold the whole gang together. He was their essence. He was the loveable Great Dane with a speech impediment who was scared out

of his wits when any ghost was near, but was also brave and courageous enough to save the day. I think I liked Scooby best of all because, believe it or not, I identified with him. I've always had many friends and am a pretty outgoing, likeable person. Even though Scooby was a dog, I could still relate to his personality the best. Although I could see and relate to all of the character's traits such as Fred's wittiness and charm, Velma's problem solving, Daphne's girliness and Shaggy's comedy, I related the most to Scooby's sociability and heart. The characters were not the only things that I identified with; the cartoon show had affected me in other ways too.

The show also helped in the development of my own curiosity and interest in the paranormal and the unknown along with the suspense of unearthing the real explanation for strange occurrences. I have always been fascinated with seeing a ghost and discovering who they were and why they haunted. In contrast, Scooby Doo's ghosts were almost always grounded in reality and discovered as actual people trying to scare off others in which there often existed a moral to the story. To this day, I can still relate to the show.

Reasons why the cartoon show Scooby Doo has influenced me the most is that these great characters were such good friends, were so outgoing and helpful, and always seemed to have good relations with others. I feel like they were role models not just for me but also for many other children. The gang still continues to personify some of our basic traits. Scooby Doo will always be a part of me as a child and in my life as an adult.



They would all travel in a van called the Mystery Machine to solve any strange or unexplained occurrences, such as ghosts, that called their attention.

I remember how important Scooby Doo was when I was four years old. I knew exactly what time the show came on and

the exact same in every episode. They seemed to all maintain a great friendship with one another and worked well as a team in discovering "the mystery." Fred, the handsome leader of the group, was the most brave. He was good at setting traps



# Athletes and Scandals

by Reginald King

Everyone can imagine how tough it must be to always have attention drawn towards you all the time even when it is unwanted. Lately there have been more cases than ever with athletes, professional and college, being involved in sexual scandals. There Kobe Bryant case, Duke Lacrosse Team, and Marcus Vick are just a few. One might ask why would people of their stature even put themselves into that kind of situation? Is the media just building something up more than what it actually is? As we all know, even before these cases were finished the media had pointed all of these men to be the bad guys. Isn't this America, where you are innocent until proven guilty?

There are a lot of scenarios that play a major role when you are dealing with people and accusations of rape. For example when and where did it happen, the motive of the accuser comes into play, and when and where does consensual stop? Now by all means if you are guilty, you should be punished justly by the law but not until proven so. In many of these cases these athletes were not only hurt financially but their reputation was forever damaged by these types of accusations. But how do these incidents even come close to

happening? There are times when women would get past security, wait after games, and even go as far as to sneak into hotel rooms. These are times when I have to ask why some of these victims would even put themselves into those situations.

Everyone knows that in these cases, women are dealing with high profile athletes and can benefit from their popularity status. We all know in the end it is usually the so-called victim that benefits-primarily in their pockets. Yes ulterior motives come into play a lot when someone's reputation is on the line and the reward can add up to millions of dollars in some cases.

In the end, public opinion is greatly swayed by what we hear or see first, most of the time this is where the media comes into play. Instead of getting fair reports from sides of the story, most of the time the accuser is just dragged into the ground. Most headlines read "Athlete being accused of rape" on the front page or some sort. They even go as far to post mug shots of the accused and videos of them being arrested. Anytime those statements are made, it paints a picture making them guilty and that is really not fair.

## No A With Team USA

by Micheal Johnson

*Editor's note: This article contains excerpts from a hot topic book by Larry Platt on Allen Iverson.*

According to NBA.com, this person is the 10th fastest player to reach 14,000 points. Finished the 2004-05 season with 2,302 points and marked the second highest single-season scoring total in franchise history. He also captured his fourth scoring title (30.9 ppg) in 2004-05, joining Wilt Chamberlain, Michael Jordan, and George Gervin as the only players in NBA history to capture four or more scoring titles. In 62 career playoff games, he has averaged 30.6 points per game, the second highest scoring average in NBA Playoff history behind only Michael Jordan (33.4 ppg). He's also the first player in NBA history since steals have been recorded (1973-74) to finish in the top-5 in scoring (30.7 ppg), steals (2.40), and assists (7).

To those who know him, they'll say Allen Iverson is 5'11 on a good day. Iverson was recently left off of team USA's roster, the same team which he helped lead in scoring in Athens, the same team where he was the emotional leader. Allen Iverson was left off the list of 22 players, while players like Bruce Bowen, Josh Howard, and Luke Indoor made the squad, guys who haven't proved their self worth to the league. What makes matters even worse is the fact that Kevin Garnett, Jermaine O'Neal, Vince Carter, Ray Allen, Jason Kidd, Tracy McGrady, and Richard Hamilton aren't on this list. Those players all decided they weren't interested in competing in the 2008 Olympics according to Philly Sports Net on April 3, 2006. Sophomore Reginald King says, "He's one of the best players in the league, he can promote commercials, and shoes, but he can't get an invitation to the team he led years before, that's wrong."

Rumors swirled around the NBA about how Allen Iverson's image may have hurt

his chances, but can that really be a factor when you have guys like Kobe Bryant, whose image was torn apart due to the situation in Colorado.

People also have said that the emergence of Coach Mike Krzyzewski has something to do with why Allen Iverson was left off the list. According to Black Electorate.com., "Despite his being the league's scoring champ, the leading vote getter among Eastern guards for the all-star game and a first-team all-NBA player of the year before, rumor had it he would not be named to the U.S. Men's Olympic Basketball team for the games in Sydney, Australia."

If the rumor was true, odds were that the Buck's Ray Allen would fill the last available spot on the roster. The Sonics were scheduled to face Iverson and the Sixers on the eve of the announcement that he'd beaten Iverson out for the spot. That game he lit up the bucks for 45 points. He scored big baskets and played as if something was on the line. Iverson later denied saying that the decision had something to do with his performance, but when asked why he didn't make the team and someone like Ray Allen did, according to Black Electorate.com he was quoted saying, "I knew I wasn't going to be on that team," Iverson said. "With the question you're asking, you want me to tell you the reason you already know, and I'm not going to do that. Everybody knows. It's no big deal." Someone asked, would it bother him if his past were held against him? "People are going to do that," he said. "It's not right, but it's something I kind of understand, that people would kind of be scared. After the things I've been through, I can't blame people if they say, 'Maybe he's not the right guy' but when they talk basketball, I'm the right guy. Simple as that."

## "Watch Out HAAC; AU Hires New Volleyball Coach"

by Dani Asher

Avila's volleyball program is heading in a new direction with the addition of head coach Amy Carlson. Amy comes in with twelve years of coaching under her belt. She gained HAAC experience while coaching volleyball and softball at Baker. From there, she moved on to St. Theresa's Academy where she led the team to a record of 78-16 overall. Amy Carlson said, "At this point, I missed interacting with older student athletes and the collegiate competition."

Amy was drawn to Avila largely because of the location. She also likes the conference and the NAIA's Champions of Character concept. "Avila will be easy to recruit to because of its academic reputation," says the head coach.

Amy's first impressions of the team were that they are hard-working, receptive, and open to changes in technique. "This group has good team chemistry," she said. According to sophomore Brittany Lofgreen, "Amy is a great improvement in the coaching staff and she meshes really well with how the team plays. She also

understands where we are coming from with her past experiences in the conference. I like her a lot."

Amy's philosophy is about getting better everyday. She is less concerned about wins and losses. "We are going to work on the things you can control, such as effort and intensity." junior Rachel Boley states, "Practices are very intense and helpful." Teammate Jessica Horine agrees, "Practices are more competitive and fast-paced. She is a good fit for AU and I can't wait for my senior year."

Carlson has high expectations for her team. Her purpose for the spring and summer is to improve strength and technique. "My goal for next season is to finish in the top of the conference."

"Amy has the capability to help the team get where we want to go," Stacy Suntken said. The Head Coach has high hopes for a big recruiting year as well.

"The key is finding good fits for Avila and the team," Amy stated. Armed with the capabilities of a new coach and a positive attitude from the team, Avila could be 'killing' opponents next fall.

## Bonds on Bonds

by John Deroo and Micheal Johnson

Barry Bonds' new Reality TV show "Bonds on Bonds" debuted Tuesday April 04, 2006. The show was supposed to follow Barry Bonds as he went on his quest for Hank Aaron's home run record. But as the scandal with steroids began to brew, and two San Francisco Chronicle reporters detailed Bonds' alleged steroid use in their new book, "Game of Shadows." According to Foxnews.com on April 04, 2006, they began to take a different angle on the show. Bonds is usually quiet when it comes to the media, or when it comes to speaking on steroids and different issues.

On his new show, Bonds is talking, and it seems that he has an outlet to get all these things off of his chest. He addresses his struggles with the media, what others say about his personality, and does talk about people accusing him of taking steroids, but most of his conversation when dealing with that is in the third person. Senior Jordan Stewart says, "Bonds is a liar. If he's innocent why does he have to tell the world once a week? Who refers to themselves in the third person? It's stupid."

According to the San Francisco Chronicle on Feb, 04 2006, this show gives Barry Bonds a chance to improve his public image which he addresses on the show, and also his ties to the BALCO steroid scandal. So how does Barry cope with all the pressure of winning games, breaking a homerun record, not to mention that they have now handed the steroid case over to the FBI? Well how does a .214 batting average sound, what about 0 homeruns and 1 RBI. It doesn't seem like Barry has handled the pressure well, although he has played better of late.

People have been quoted as saying that his swing has changed and he is no longer patient at the plate anymore. "It's as if he's in a hurry to break these records, because he knows he may not be around to much longer," Sophomore Reginald King says, "By watching the show, I've gotten an understanding of why he acts the way he does. It does seem as if he's misunderstood a lot." I guess there's only one way to find out. Tune in to his shows-they air at 7 p.m. ET on Tuesdays throughout the season. Most episodes last a half-hour and some an hour.

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# Welcome To Walton World

by Simon Meade

Wal-mart has created a global monopoly of the retail market and plans to expand this year, targeting a new genre of consumers and opening numerous Wal-Mart super centers around the world.

Upon arrival to new towns, newly built Wal-Mart stores steal 84 percent of the business from existing stores (Wal-Mart annual report). Everything conveniently in one place, right? Well, your money spent at the store, as well as your tax dollars, are going to support the globalization of a capitalistic monopoly. The state of Missouri alone in 1999 donated 64.4 million dollars in taxes to support the growth of the chain.

To a lot of customers, the conveniently located circulation of inexpensive foreign-made product is a relatively good thing, even though these major corporations strangle most of the struggling competition. Around 5,813 Wal-marts are strategically placed around the world, and an exhausting 3,250 exist in the united states alone (wikipedia.org, December, 2005). Some of these Global companies include: Pace Club Warehouse, Woolco,

ASDA, Supermercados Amigo, Wertkauf hypermarkets, Interspar hypermarkets, Bompreco, Sonae Distribuição, The Seiyu Ltd., Central American Retail Holding



Company, Cifra, Sam's Club and Lowe's.

The average sales-clerk at Wal-Mart receives roughly \$8.23 per hour and about 13,860 a year. The pay sounds reasonable unless you know that the poverty line for a family of three is 15,260 a year (business weekly 2003). Wal-Mart does give a share of their profits to charity, but when their own employees are forced into poverty, the donations seem more like a smoke and mirror advertising scandal.

Wal-mart's supplier for toys, Chinese toy-making company Guangdong Province's employees reported working 130 hours a

week and were paid 16.5 cents per hour, which is below the minimum wage in china(National Labor Committee). Also, in the last three years, the American Wal-mart companies have been fined for hiring over 250 immigrants from various countries, not paying them correctly, and even locking them in the store until morning(CNN Money 2005). A countless amount of child-labor laws were violated, such as: minors working too late, minors working when they are supposed to be in school, too many hours in a day, and 76,472 required breaks and meal times skipped (Wall Street Journal 2005).

Wal-Mart is planning to expand and reach out to snazzier shoppers in Plano, Texas. The experiment will sell sushi, fine wine, cigars, nicer clothing, expensive jewelry, high end electronics, microbrewery and the employees even seem to be out of the traditional monkey-suit uniform. Wal-Mart plans to attract the customers who mainly shop at Target and Costco but, choose Wal-Mart for cheap groceries (David Koenig). Also, Santa Cruz Indy media center(I.M.C.) states, "Wal-Mart is planning a statewide takeover of California. As if its regular sized mega stores aren't big enough, Wal-Mart's newest reign of terror are their twice-as-large Super-Centers." California's Wal-Mart expansion will start in 2006 (Santa Cruz I. M. C.). My question is, why does America continually support the Walton family income?

## Letting It All Out

by Eudora Savage

I have saved up for a year and a half, and currently work two jobs just because I want to attend Avila and no other University, but I have had an unpleasant awakening.

The school news magazine was taken off the stands because of some sexual content that students published. As I had stated in the past issue of the Talon, officials should have used the information to survey students and help counsel them instead of pulling the Talon. As a religious and private school with about 1800 students, I believe the officials can handle counseling almost all of those students in the areas that are needed. Every one is short in a certain area of their life and may need some help.

Why do we not have security in the school, and I say that because in the four months that I have attended Avila, I have seen one security officer and he/she was pulling a cart. After struggling to pay my tuition and missing payment deadlines, I expect security to be all over the school to make everyone feel comfortable and safe. There are only about 300 students staying in

the dorms. Why then, at a Catholic school, are men and women in the same building? Why not renovate all the buildings and put cameras all over the campus? Where is the tuition going? I believe that our professors have to be paid, they are doing an excellent job, but how heavy are the expenses that the school cannot tighten security?

A few weeks ago, classrooms were broken into and security was nowhere around the area where the theft was occurred.

It is a shame that a rape case has to come from Avila University, as well. Perhaps it is because the school concerns itself with only unnecessary issues. The story was all over every news station in Kansas City. They all talked of a rape in the middle of a dorm hallway. Where was security when all of this was happening? The story said the school has 24 hour security, but apparently the rape happened in the elusive 25<sup>th</sup>.

Those that said the Talon was pulled for a good reason, this incident has been a sign that perhaps it should have been discussed more. The paper should never have been an issue because these things need to be

open for discussion on campus. It should have built a foundation to say we should start helping and talking to our students and get to know them, and what they're really going through.

There should be cameras in all the hallways in all the buildings, in the tunnels and in every place that the unthinkable can happen. Let us engage our minds in things that will build us up, we can be a backbone to each other. The rape issue broke my heart because I see every student attending Avila as family, and when a member of a family does wrong, it breaks my heart because I know in one way or another they once cried for help and we ignored.

Let us stay wide-awake and be vigilant, renovate the school, 1800 student is not too many to handle. Show interest in the students. Hire more security, we want to see them patrolling the campus grounds, the tunnels, the field, the office buildings and the hallways in the dorms. It can happen, we can bring change if we have an open dialogue. The administration just has to open its ears first.

## A Letter to The Talon

Dear Editor,

I am writing to provide several clarifications regarding the article, "Avila Day Care a Great Value for Some" in the March 2006 issue.

First, it is important to note that we are not called nor ever have been called "day care."

Avila Montessori School is an academic program that is certified through the Montessori Institute of America to provide schooling for children ages 2 1/2 – 6, including kindergarten. The hours of the school were listed correctly in the article as 9 am – 3 pm.

Our classes run August – May, closely following Avila's academic year. Our school has been in existence since 1968.

We also have Avila Child Care Center that provides extended care for this same age range of children between the hours of 7:30 – 9 am and 3 – 5:30 pm. Many of our students and working parents value this extended service.

Our enrollment this year is 51 children, from which the majority are from the surrounding community. We have a teaching staff of four: two certified Montessori teachers and two teacher aides. Because we offer a variety of programs, we always keep within a 1:10 ratio between teaching staff and children, which is an appropriate guideline for preschool age children.

The writer of the article stated that we take the children on fieldtrips and also have other schools that come in and visit with the children. It is accurate that we take fieldtrips, but we do not have other schools visit. However, in addition to the classroom work, we have several class celebrations, like a Halloween Party, Valentine Party, Thanksgiving Feast, Field Day, Avila Teas, and in-house fieldtrips, like the Coterie to present a play.

Second, we are a private school and an ancillary service of the university. It is not possible to offer this as a free service. We must meet our expenses each year. The writer suggests that other universities offer these services free. I have been in contact with several other schools on college campuses in the KC area and they also charge for services. Some may have a sliding scale fee, but I am not aware of any that offer everything at no cost.

We would welcome anyone to visit our school or just take a look at the services we offer. We are quite proud of the programs that we have. Better yet, we have a web page on Avila's web site: [www.avila.edu](http://www.avila.edu) Go to the Visitor section and Montessori is listed there.

Browse through all of our pages of detailed information, then feel free to contact me if you have further questions. Our program may not be what everyone is looking for and, as the writer stated, we also want students to consider all their options.

Thank you,

Carol Frevert, R.N.



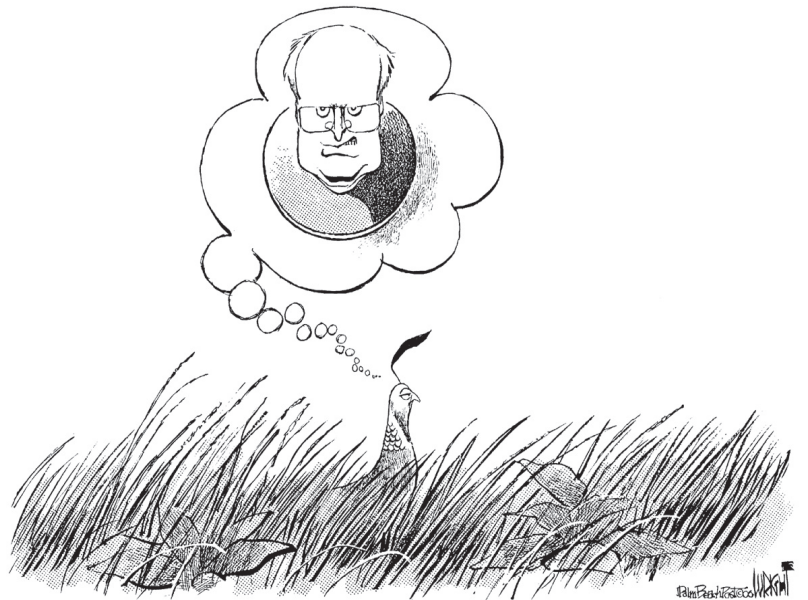


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Create your own caption to this cartoon and submit it to The Talon. The winners get published.